



1 February 2021

S21.02

## Supplementary submission to the Social Services and Community Select Committee on the Child Support Amendment Bill no. 228-1

- 1.1 Thank you for the opportunity for further comment on the Bill with regard to the debt recovery provisions (Sections 42 and 43).
- 1.2 As stated in our oral submissions, NCWNZ is very concerned about the drastic drop in living standards of mothers and their children after relationship breakups. Late payment, or non- payment of child support is a contributing factor to this, causing additional financial and emotional stress.
- 1.3 Whilst we support the intent of the Bill for a fair system with an emphasis on incentives to increase compliance, this must be balanced with ensuring liable parents do meet their responsibilities and that there are fair but effective penalties, if they do not.
- 1.4 NCWNZ recommends that the Committee reconsider the provisions of Sections 42 and 43 which extend timelines for incurring penalties and debt recovery and the likely impacts on the wellbeing of receiving children and parent-and any other children the liable parent is responsible for. This can be a complex issue, but children are the innocent party and their best interests must be the overriding factor in assessing the appropriate balance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Manning'.

Suzanne Manning  
NCWNZ Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raewyn Stone'.

Raewyn Stone  
for Convenor NCWNZ Public Issues Standing  
Committee